

## SGA meeting heats up

by Maria Mewing  
Strobe staff

The Student Government Association meeting of November 28th hosted a heated debate between SGA's executive board and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Bobbie Crane. The argued issue was SGA's perceived knowledge of their boundaries and power limitations.

The cheerleaders are partially sponsored by the Booster Club, a recognized campus group, but

have been trying to establish their own recognized identity within the institution. By doing so they would be able to book facilities for themselves, host events, and channel cheerleader generated monies from these events to a separate account from the Booster Club. Institutional recognition comes from approval of club procedures by the Student Organization Committee (SOC) headed by Michael McNamara.

Questions resulted when members of FSC cheerleading came asking for recognition on the advice of Public Information

Officer Bill LaBaire. Crane attempted to inform executive board of the cheerleaders special status. Crane said that they really needed to be institutionally recognized since they wanted to generate their own funds to augment monies from the Booster Club. "Only clubs which want SGA funding need to come for recognition. There being here is a waste of their time," stated Crane.

The issue of whom the cheerleaders needed to gain recognition from was finally resolved by Maria Mewing, an observer, who explained the difference between institutional recognition and SGA recognition at the request of SGA president, Bill McCarty. The cheerleaders were expected to attend the SOC meeting on November 29th, to determine how they should proceed.

Student Trustee, Dana Harrington, reported on his voting for the fee increase at the November 15th Trustee meeting. He apologized but stated after reviewing the monetary situation, this was the best option. The board voted on increasing the additional

fees from \$110 dollars to \$135 dollars per student for the spring semester. This amount is in addition to the \$100 dollar crisis fee already in place.

The November 21st meeting was cancelled due to a combination of the holiday and illnesses.

Happenings from the November 14th meeting were as follows: letterwriting campaign addressed, call for more SGA leadership in the campaign. Framingham State organized a lobbyist meeting on the budget crisis. PIO Bill LaBaire was to attend and report back on November 21st. Poster policy was restated, members were asked to be stricter in their approval. Sean Kinnally, a student, asked for help with a one percent sales tax law for education petition. Reports were heard from SOAR conference attendees and Campus Center Advisory Board on their ACU-I conference.

This is the last report on SGA until next semester. SGA is scheduled to meet December 5th in G-04 at 6:00 p.m.

## Katherine Flynn named Miller Award recipient

by Beth Boberg  
Strobe staff

Katherine E. Flynn, a special education professor at Fitchburg State College, is this year's recipient of the Miller Award, which honors outstanding contributions to the teaching profession. She is perhaps best known for her enthusiastic approach to education. She serves as a mentor and an inspirational role model to hundreds of future teachers each year, and has long been noted for the high quality of academic advising.

Flynn has been active with many organizations which include the Fitchburg State Alumni Association, and a number of campus committees, and was among those responsible for setting up the Newman Center. She has also been the faculty advisor for the Newman Center for the past thirty years.

Also, she is the chairperson of the Integrated Professional Program, as a part of the special education curriculum. "The Integrated Professional Program," explains Flynn, "involves three intensive weeks of student teaching in elementary schools in preparation for them to teach as part of a full time faculty after college." This is how Flynn describes what it is like when students learn hands-on training, with the background of theoretical learning.

"Each student with a pre-practicum teaches twice a week in a school for half a day. I am always nearby, and can advise any student who may run into difficulties." This uniqueness in her style of teaching, along with the many students, both in the past as well as the present who admire her, is probably the biggest reason why Katherine E. Flynn was chosen as this year's recipient of the Miller Award.

## FSC's MASSPIRG helps plan Earth Day '90

By Katherine A. Sherman  
Contributing Writer

As your wrapping Christmas gifts and walking in the snow, take a moment to think about the environment around you. Today and everyday the environment is suffering from toxins in water from the lack of trees for paper. Earth Day '90 has been in the workings for 20 years. This year is a celebration of the efforts made on the first Earth Day in 1970.

Over 20 million people demonstrated commitment for working together for a better environment. Those efforts contributed to the enactment of the Clean Air Act and The Clean Act as well as the creation of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

In the upcoming weeks, organizations across Massachusetts are meeting to plan Earth Day

'90. The major role of Earth Day is awakening the public to the declining environment. Earth Day '90 is asking everyone to make a commitment to make the world a better place to live everyday. MASSPIRG is playing an important role in the development along with other organizations such as Green Peace, Sierra Club, Autbourne Society and thousands of smaller, local groups.

The MASSPIRG chapter on campus plans to do a series of events to promote Earth Day '90. This will include endorsements from faculty and pledges from students stating that they will try to use environmentally sound products, do business with corporations that promote global environmental responsibilities, and support local and state laws that protect the environment. Also, educating the campus and

community about the effects of pollutants that are destroying the earth will hopefully involve people who can make a difference.

Raoul Rebillard, director of the Campus Center said, "I would like to see a change in the usage of materials in the campus center that are not environmentally sound, Earth Day is one event to open people's eyes."

The crisis of our environment is not just in Massachusetts or in the United States but in every country in the world. If it was not for the voices of students snowballing legislators and companies in the past, there would be no movement. The youths of the world are the future and have the power to shape the way it should be. Earth Day '90 is definitely a day to mark down on our calendars in April, but wouldn't it be great if it was every day.

## SOAR tries to combat racism

by Julie Remondini  
Contributing Writer

More than 350 students, representing 25 to 28 Northeastern colleges and universities gathered on the campus of Wesleyan University the weekend of November 10th to attend a confer-

ence sponsored by the Society Organized Against Racism (SOAR).

SOAR is an organization of concerned students, faculty and administration committed to forming a support network for those actively working to combat racism in higher education and to share resources with the other member institutions.

The weekend began with a dinner featuring a keynote speech by Arnold Mitchem, Executive Director of the National Council of Education Opportunity Association. This council is a place for economically disadvantaged children to seek help. Mitchem expressed the fact that everyone

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## FSC commemorates the death of six Jesuit priests

by Maria Mewing  
Strobe staff

Calling the November 16 "Death Squad" murders of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter an outrageous, symbolic act, members of the FSC community gathered together in a commemorative vigil on November 30 in the Hammond lounge. Gathering during all-college period faculty, staff, administrators and students filtered in to bear witness to these individuals who had died in the name of freedom.

All of the slain Jesuits had been faculty at the Jesuit University of Central America (JUCA) where they had acted as liaisons between guerrillas of the Marxist-led Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMNL) and the Christian Democratic Party led by President Alfredo Cristiani. All of the victims had been shot early in the morning. Reverends Segundo Montes and Ignacio Ellacuria were killed in the university, with the remaining priests, Reverends Ignacio Martin-Baro, Amando Lopez, Juan Ramon Moreno, and Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, being led outside, shot in the head, and their brains scooped onto the ground beside their bodies. The cook and her daughter, Celina and Julia Ramos, were killed in their beds.

During a government sponsored radio broadcast prior to the murders, announcers implied that knowledge of the guerrillas whereabouts suggested involvement with them. An implication of this type occurred ten years earlier and resulted in the deaths of four Roman Catholic nuns by the now infamous Death Squads. The Death Squads are composed of police, military, and other government personnel. The FSC memorial

vigil was organized by Jan Albergene of the English department. Her intent for the vigil was to have a socially responsible outcry from other members of the education field in particular, and the human community as a whole.

Dr. Oliver Ford, Dean of Academic Affairs, said the scooping of the murdered priests brains onto the ground next to their corpses was a symbolic act. "The problem with symbols is they often fail," contended Ford, "They attempted to interject fear and stifle free thought...instead they have loosed those ideas on all now. These priests are martyred and that's hardly the intent. Speaker Nancy Wigglesma, Professor of English, termed San Salvador a nation in a state of siege, saying the murdered were victims of revenge with more than academic credibility. Wigglesma had inter-

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Student Recruiters Needed:

Ahh, that much needed Christmas Break is almost here. Wouldn't it be fun to visit your old high school during the winter break. Volunteers are needed for students to return home and explain the Fitchburg State experience to students from their high schools. You supply the motivation and enthusiasm, we will supply the brochures. Stop by the Admissions Office for details.

Contact Scott Gauthier at 345-2151 ext. 3144 if in need of further information.

Scrimshaw, FSC's annual literary and graphic magazine is currently accepting literary and graphic submissions for the 1990 publication. Any FSC student interested in submitting work should do so by Dec. 1, 1989 to Tom Murray in the English Department or Bonnie House in the Communications Department.

The Tan Line Starts Here!

The NEASYLON Society is currently organizing it's annual Spring Break Trip to Daytona, Florida. For more information see any NEASYLON or watch for upcoming details.

The FSC Library will be holding Amnesty Days on Dec. 14 and 15. What this means is that all overdue materials may be returned to the Library with no fines or questions.

The following radio stations will announce the closing of the College during weather emergencies for the 1989 - 1990 academic year after 6:30 a.m.

WEIM (1280 AM)	Fitchburg
WFGL (960 AM)	Fitchburg
WCMX (1000 AM)	Leominster
WBZ (1030 AM 106.7 FM)	Boston
WEEI (590 AM)	Boston
WBCN (104 FM)	Boston
WTAG (580 AM)	Worcester
WGAW (1340 AM)	Gardner
WINQ (980 FM)	Winchendon
WXPL (91.3 FM)	FSC Campus Radio ( after 8 a.m.)

The Library will be open the following hours during finals:

- Saturday December 9th: 10 a.m. - midnight
- Sunday December 10th noon - 11 p.m.
- Monday- Thursday December 11th - 14th 8 a.m. - midnight
- Friday December 15th 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- Saturday December 16th 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday December 17th noon - 11 p.m.
- Monday - Friday December 18th - 23rd 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SOAR

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deserves a chance to receive an education and he is ready to help.

Following dinner was a "Campus Exchange." This time was set aside to give representatives from each institution an opportunity to report on their campus' SOAR Chapter and the racial climate of their campus environment.

The conference offered a gamut of 15 different topic areas for discussion. The topics covered a diverse range of issues including the different types of racism that exist and how to deal with them. Each of the partici-

pants had a chance to express their feelings and voice their concerns.

Derrick McKercher, a sophomore at FSC attended the conference. He said "I wasn't aware of how extreme the problem actually is on other college campuses, the conference really opened my eyes. I would now like to try to do something to change the situation."

The theme of the conference was "Uniting Voices - from Discord to Racial Harmony." This theme, in essence is SOAR's ultimate goal, which they strive to reach every day.

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To the Editor:

My fellow students from across Massachusetts, we should be proud of our accomplishments this semester. In September, no one expected the problems or responsibilities that have been dropped upon us.

Each campus across the State has his or her own hero(s). All organizers of the rally in Boston in October and post rally activities should be highly commended. But everyone realizes that our fight will be long and hard.

The actions of the Statehouse are not just affecting education, but society as a whole. Each area of society has been struggling and fighting for their cause. Education is a total reflection upon everything in life. Cuts from education or any other areas cannot continue. Everyone must unite to fight for what is right. All citizens from this great Commonwealth must come together to bring about change. Change and reform are the future in this state. The future has come my friends and it is time to act, again and again.

Our future will be accompanied by one word, courage. America is about courage. It gives us the ability to speak out, to bring change, and matter in society. Under the courage falls

such words like: quality, conviction, dignity, recognition, and accomplishment. All of those words are what we as students are all about. The future of this state and country are in our hands. For what happens in the present will have great bearing on the future.

In closing I would like to use a quote from the Inauguration of John F. Kennedy that I feel will give us the hope for the future. "We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first of the revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and a bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of these human rights to which we are committed today at here and around the world."

My fellow students, Good Luck!

Sincerely,

Michael Rothberg  
Student Government President  
Bridgewater State College

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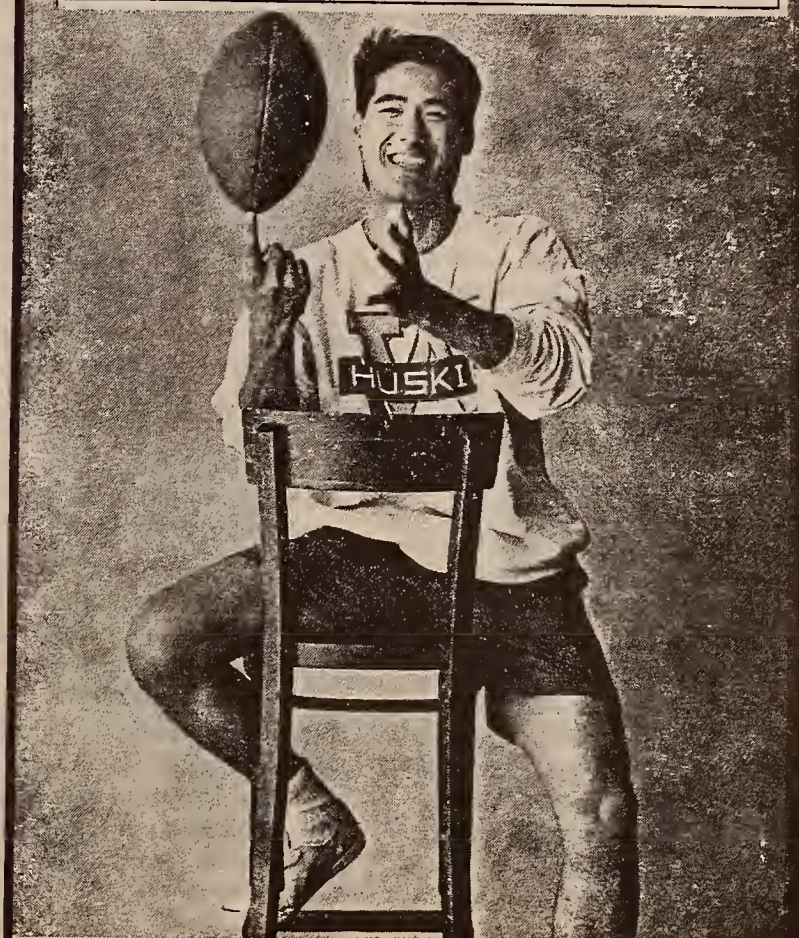
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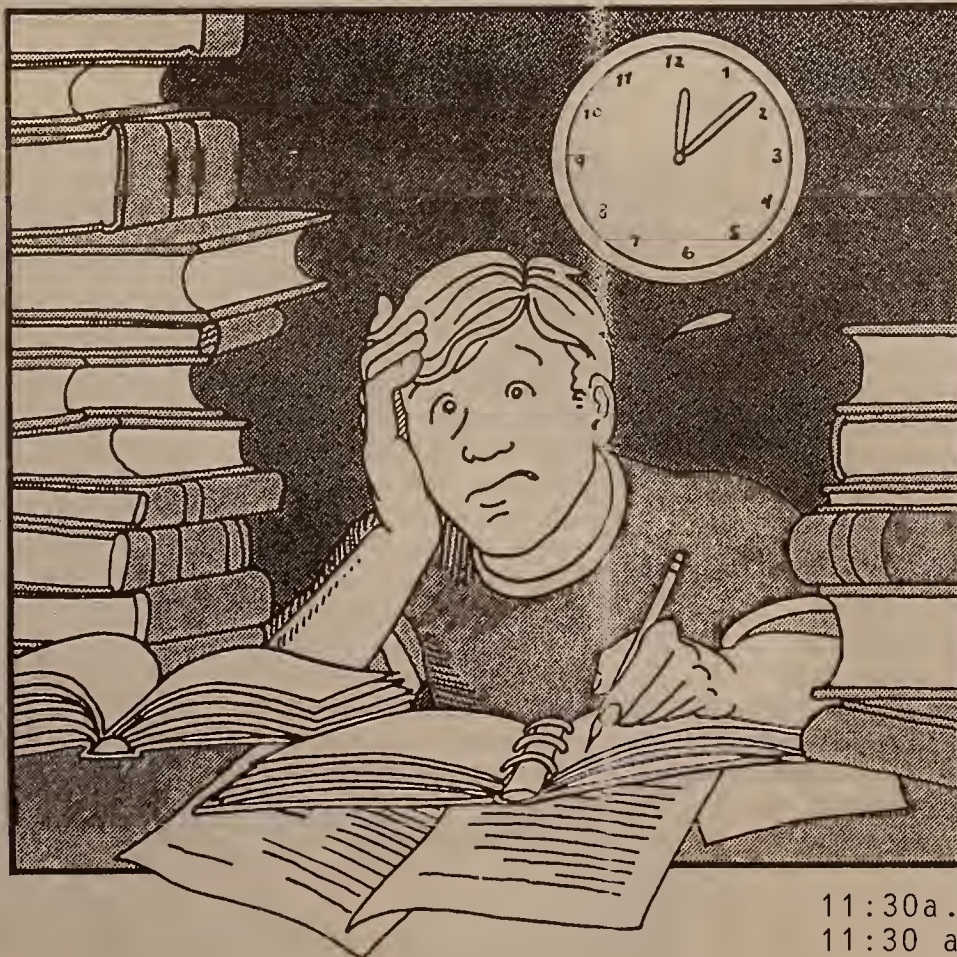
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# FEATURES

## College students agonize over Christmas shopping

by Lisa Mann  
Contributing Writer

"What can I get my father for Christmas?" If finals aren't enough to worry about, college students each holiday season, ponder over when they will find the time, and most importantly, the money to buy Christmas gifts. After all, wouldn't it be nice to go all out on an extravagant gift for the folks? Most parents help, if not entirely, pay for college tuition costs. Therefore, Christmas seems to be that time when a lot of students become agonized by the fact that they cannot afford suitable gifts for their loved ones.

Another dilemma: if you buy a gift for one friend, you are obligated to buy for another, and so on. Having a boyfriend or girlfriend can be another problem. The black leather jacket he would crawl to the end of the earth for, or the diamond ring she can boast to her friends about, are things students dream about being able to afford.

After scraping for money all semester, some deeper digging will be needed for most students

this year. One student said that buying gifts is last on her list right now, "there is just too many things to think about, I don't need the pressure at this time."

Is Christmas shopping just another added pressure? Shouldn't it be pleasurable to pick out that perfect gift for that special someone? For Jeff, a senior at FSC, Christmas shopping is something he does all year round. Throughout the year, Jeff will slowly gather gifts for the people on his shopping list. Because these gifts are picked spontaneously, they are usually creative and barely make a dent in his pocket. "When I see something that makes me think of a person, I will buy it and save it until Christmas time," Jeff said.

While Jeff may have a knack for gift buying, a lot of people like the thrill of last-minute shopping. This year, a couple at FSC plan to go gift shopping for each other a day or two after Christmas. Although they may be dampening the spirit a bit, they both claim that since the sale prices are so incredible after

Christmas, they can afford to buy the kind of gifts they want for each other. "Plus, we can buy each other what we didn't receive from parents or relatives," they said.

Maybe students expect too much of themselves during this season. It may be hard to look past a price tag during this season, however, Christmas is really supposed to be much more than retail stores beef it up to be. Actions speak louder than money spent. Students can show their appreciation to family and friends in other ways besides buying fancy presents. Since students have nearly a month off, why not take that time to spend some time with parents and friends? Whether it be a movie, dinner, or just sitting around talking, it is these moments that will be fondly recalled, rather than a "toaster oven" or a "weed wacker."

If money (or lack of it) has gotten you depressed this holiday season, here is a thought for you: you may find that the perfect gift to give, which doesn't cost anything, is yourself.

## College bowl promotes communication between FSC and WSC

By Christine Houle and Maria Krembrenk  
Strobe staff

The first rivalry between Fitchburg State College and Worcester State College was the college bowl, hosted by WSC on Monday, November 13, and the second game was at Fitchburg on Thursday November 16.

The college bowl is a game similar to "As Schools Match Wits" or "Jeopardy." The questions were derived from Campbell's Potpourri of Quiz Bowl Questions. Each school had two teams consisting of four people each. The games have three rounds, each lasting twenty minutes. Both teams play once and if necessary, the third round is played by an all star team with two players from each of the two teams. The winner of two out of the three rounds wins the game.

In the game at Worcester, the Fitchburg State contestants were Mary Daly, Tim Liptrap, Wendy Rosinger, and John Eisner for the first team. The second team consisted of Bob Buckley, Lynn Clifford, Bill McCarty, and Christine Houle. Worcester State contestants were Tom MacMaster, Joe Lapolite, Paul Cahil, and Andrew Ellis for the first team, and Philip Wrightson, John Doyle, John Seymore, and Christine Drew.

FSC won the first and third games in Worcester with the scores 135-100 and 100-90 respectfully. Ironically however, the total score of the game was

Fitchburg 285 to Worcester 355.

Also taking part in this event were Dana Harrington, FSC's Student Trustee, as mediator, and Jeff Tergeon, WSC's SGA President, as the judge.

When FSC hosted the second college bowl game, Worcester had the winning teams made of Tom MacMaster, Joe Lapolite, Paul Cahil, Andrew Ellis, Philip Wrightson, Rob Mussilli, John Doyle and John Seymore. Fitchburg's teams consisted of Mary Doyle, Derek McKercher, and Wendy Rosinger, Thomas Lee, Lynn Fluet, Andy Gobeil, and James Buckley.

Worcester won the second game by 115 points over FSC and in the final game Worcester only won by five points. The total amount of points reached 320 for FSC and 380 for WSC.

The judges for this game were Lynn Clifford and Dana Harrington. The mediator was FSC's President of SGA, Bill McCarty. Everyone enjoyed the college bowl as Lynn Clifford said, "The college bowl was stimulating." The reason for the rivalry and the competition was "to add another dimension to college life," according to Dana Harrington.

The idea of the rivalry is to help the two schools communicate, compare, and learn from each other.

"I think it's an excellent idea and I hope that when it gets rolling everyone participates and gets behind it," stated Bob Buckley, FSC's secretary of SGA.

## Programs Committee stronger than ever

By Kristine Carlson  
Contributing Writer

The Fitchburg State College Programs Committee is back and stronger than ever this year. Last year's committee, led by Maria Mewing, got the ball rolling and this semester it has done nothing but increase in speed.

The 89-90 committee, with senior Paul Dawson at the helm, is a subdivision of SGA and has itself, several subcommittees.

One of the most visible subcommittees is that of Special Events. With seniors Mike McCulloch and Bob Bishop as Chairpersons, Special Events plan the popular bimonthly comedy nights. Professional comedians are contracted from Pretty Polly Productions in Boston to perform in the Pub every other Monday night. These shows are open to all ages and tickets are free of charge at the Information Desk after 3 p.m. the afternoon of the event.

Special Events is also responsible for planning another popular FSC event; the now infamous Spree Day. Although all members of Programs assist in the planning of Spree Day, it is the ultimate responsibility of the Special Events Committee to book the bands and prepare for the fun.

The Films Committee is headed by Lisa Curtis and newly appointed co-chair Tanya Wells.

This committee spends each semester planning and subsequently contracting the films to appear in the Campus Center's Ellis White Lecture Hall. These films are also free to students and are always very popular. They are shown Wednesdays and Saturdays, three times each day. This season's most successful films, as well as popular classics, are displayed on the EWLH's wide screen.

The Performing Arts Committee is part of the Programs works in conjunction with the Campus Center. This committee is headed by senior Kristine Carlson with Mary Chapin Durling, Graduate Assistant in the Campus Center. The committee has spent time and energy considering performers and has chosen four which will appeal to a wide variety of students, as well as the community at large.

The Livingston Taylor Concert was the first sell-out show at Weston in close to five years. Winter Solstice Concert with Windham Hill Artists, which was held November 30th, was successful as well. Next semester brings blues/gospel artist Pearl Williams-Jones and the Concert Dance Company of Boston. The Performing Arts series offers FSC students the opportunity for hearing and seeing performers from diverse genres in the arts.

The fourth subcommittee of Programs is Coffeehouse headed by a newcomer, sophomore Kate Dickinson. Coffeehouse was pronounced "dead" in September by Programs, but through debate was resuscitated into the land of the performing. The first Coffeehouse is being billed as "The Last Coffeehouse of the 80's" with Tom Acousti appearing in the Pub December 10th at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free and coffee and refreshments will be served. Tom Acousti plays guitar and keyboard, performing cover tunes as well as his own unique material. Next semester will undoubtedly see a variety of performers from Irish folk to traditional American folk, as well as many other surprises. Stay tuned for further updates about the newly resurrected Coffeehouse.

Michelle J. Clark serves as Vice President, Kristine Gouveia as Secretary and Amy Kozak as Treasurer. With the Chairs of each subcommittee and President Paul Dawson, the Programs Executive Board is complete.

If anyone would like to join the Programs Committee, meetings are held every Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. in room G-04 in the Campus Center. New members are always welcome. Come and add to the creativity of the Programs Committee.

## Frankly Speaking

by Phil Frank



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# FEATURES

## Reactions to the Vietnam veterans

by Bridget Douillette  
Strobe staff

You see the movies, you hear the songs, but it's something quite different to be in a room and to actually hear the words come out of the mouths of those who have been there.

There I was, sitting in the E. White Lecture Hall, watching these six men as they simply told of their experiences. No melodrama, there were only the facts. Yet, some of the scenes uttered by these men hit harder than the best of drama.

I sat and listened, not daring to say a word as if to do so would interrupt my remotely empathetic passage back in time to their time. To have let myself go would have been to become surrounded by noises of war: men yelling, the jungle being shredded, weapons

screaming; but every once in a while, a student would ask a question or a professor would make a comment and I would then be bounced back to now, to the E. White Lecture Hall, to 1989. During the moments when everyone would be silently listening to these stories, my eyes would slowly pass along each one of them, stopping to look into their faces to visualize past youth and naivety of men who did not know or understand. To see faces 20 years ago that were covered with mud and sweat that held fast expressions of burden and horror, to somehow mystically fade out their up-to-date fashioned figures and replace them with militarial bodies poured into olive green molded uniforms; all the while knowing that I will never fully understand what it was like, to feel the weight

of the mud caked uniform on my body, to feel the pull of the material under my arm as I aim to fire my weapon.

On November 14th, a group of people were privileged to hear these soldiers and their stories. Their purpose: to help the future, to help us not to repeat these past mistakes; to make us aware of these mistakes so that they won't happen ever again. And they accomplish this in the simplest of ways, by each of them telling us their story. And yes, the movies are okay, the songs are okay, but I will never get the feeling I got that day from any movie or any song. No, I never will. Once you've crossed that bridge from the observational stance of dramatic visualization to the empathetic (even if remotely) participator of realism, you never go back.

## FSC welcomes Bobbi Crane

By Tom Mullings  
Strobe staff

Helping others is something that Bobbie Crane has always done. This is reflected by her experiences with inner-city youngsters, the physically disabled and senior citizens. It is no wonder that Crane is employed to help people, to help you. She is the new Coordinator for Student Life at Fitchburg State College.

The youthful and energetic Crane works with over 65 clubs and organizations on the FSC campus. One group that she is deeply involved with is the Student Government Organization which she believes is undergoing its "building years." While she is optimistic about it, she is also somewhat critical. She notes that the past two years as ones that have made great strides, but she stresses that the SGA has "a way to go." While she credits the SGA with successes like the State House Rally, she cites such things as members not fulfilling required office hours and organizational skills as problems that need confronting.

Crane is excited about the recent additions of Ron Colbert and Sandy Basti as new advisors to the SGA. Both are FSC alumni and former SGA members. Crane says about them, "They know what it was like and have good ideas to share."

Like all areas of Public Higher Education, her department has

been affected by the budget cuts. One loss that hurt deeply was the departure of F.J. Talley to Bryant College in North Smithfield, Rhode Island. Crane describes him as being "a fun guy who looks serious, but really cared about the students. He had a lot of good friends for students." Although Talley, the man, cannot be replaced, neither can his position as Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Due to the budget crisis, a hiring freeze has been created whereby no one can be hired even if somebody leaves. She says, "This office has been going through transitions for a couple of years. We're trying our best. But it comes back to the student leaders. I must count on and rely on them."

Crane's arrival at FSC is somewhat special because she grew up in Leominster. Her career has taken her from the streets of Chicago where she worked with disadvantaged youths at a YMCA. And again, she is here as the Coordinator of Student Life where she says, to the campus of FSC. "I really enjoy the challenge to assist students in their skills in leadership. There are a lot of opportunities to get involved, we have over 65 clubs on campus. Some of the other areas I work in are Drug/Alcohol Awareness and Orientation. It's fun to be able to do different programs on campus. I get to work with a variety of staff and students. My days here are never boring and I like it that way!"

## FSC's 911 launches full-length feature film

By Mark Soucy  
Contributing Writer

Fitchburg State College students continue to make FSC an "Uncommon Public College." Film students Gregory Narkunas, Ron Zimmerman, Paul Coyne, Rick Stern, and William Gunsalus have put their efforts together to create a feature length motion picture.

The ball began rolling in early 1984 when Narkunas picked up the script for "911" which he had written two years earlier. He began to rewrite the script in hopes of producing an independent feature film.

Five years later, the film is now in production, with an extensive budget which has partly been met by donations from interested connections in the filmmaking industry. Set pieces from "Spencer For Hire" were received by "911" productions to create

an office, a basement, a living room, and a bedroom.

The film is about 75 percent completed and will be going into post-production. It is expected to be released sometime in March of 1990.

"Right now we are looking for people to invest," says Zimmerman, the film's producer. Approximately \$30,000 is needed to complete the film.

When "911" is finally finished there is hope that it can be sold to video. The group has been approached by at least two companies in response to a promotional package put together by "911 Productions."

The ambitious work of these students has sparked interest and support from the faculty and administration at FSC. It has also sparked interest from the Film 1 students, who have involved themselves in the production as much as possible.

This reporter took a day out to help as a stand-in on a "party-scene" which takes place during the movie. The professional atmosphere was quite exhilarating and those involved were anxious to find out more about the film.

The setting is a small city somewhere in New England. Mike Garland, the main character, loses his wife after she falls down a flight of stairs. Before she dies, a call is made to Metro Ambulance. The owner Herry McPhearson, dismisses the call as being a prank from a disgruntled employee he fired that day.

Garland, unable to achieve legal satisfaction against McPhearson, decides to take matters into his own hand and the story is set in motion.

The story works just like the old Hitchcock thrillers which kept you guessing till the end. The film will be shown upon its completion in the spring, so watch for it next semester!



students browse holiday craft fair in G-lobby

Strobe photo by Andrea Wallace

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# ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

## “Comix” Forum

by Dan McDermott  
Strobe Staff

Welcome to another edition of Comix Forum, where we bring you news from the major comic book publishers as well as our own investment advice.

DC comics will soon be releasing a hardcover volume featuring 22 of the best tales from the comics of the 1940's. Entitled *The greatest Golden Age Stories Ever Told*, the book will feature such classic comic book characters as Superman, Batman, The Flash, and Wonder Woman. Makes a great Christmas gift!

Bill Reinhold has been chosen new penciller of the suc-

cessful Punisher series. Bill's first issue as regular penciller will be # 30.

A Sgt. Rock film is now in the works. Bruce Willis has been cast as the World War II hero soldier. No release date has been discussed.

Marvel comics will be releasing a trade paperback collecting the stories in which Spiderman faces his deadliest foe; Venom, the alien with spider-like powers. Todd McFarlane handles all artwork. The book should be released in late January.

This is the last Comix Forum this semester. Enjoy the break; see you next year in Comix Forum!



students view work of Communications Professor Peter Laytin at faculty art exhibit

Strobe photo by Andrea Wallace

## Far Side celebrate its 10th anniversary

by Dan McDermott  
Strobe Staff

It is sometimes said that a picture is worth a thousand words. There is no better description for The Far Side, the popular single-panel comic strip by cartoonist Gary Larson.

January 1st, 1990 will mark the tenth anniversary of The Far Side, a decade after it was first published in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. To celebrate this momentous occasion, Mr. Larson has released *The PreHistory of the Far Side*, a trade paperback anthology of his best, his worst, and his strangest work.

The book begins with a brief history of Larson's career as a struggling cartoonist, before the successful Far Side came to be. This section is followed by de-

scriptions of how Larson "brainstorms," or, where his odd cartoons come from.

For fan interest, the book also includes the most misunderstood and misinterpreted cartoons from the last ten years. Larson then does his best to explain what you REALLY should have seen!

Another section collects those Far Side captions that were banned, protested, and otherwise opposed. Larson then eloquently expresses his opinion of the opposition.

If you are a Far Side fan, then *The PreHistory of the Far Side* is a must! If you are unfamiliar with the bizarre creations of cartoonist Gary Larson, now is your chance to experience comedy at its most twisted!

## jesuit priests

Continued  
viewed Father Segundo Mantez during a visit to the JACK earlier this year.

Father Richard Lewandoski of the Newman Center compared the state of San Salvador to possible term project for the devil intern in C.W. Lewis' book, "Screwed Up." If this devil intern had to prove his worthiness in evoking deception, confusion, and fear, he would be valedictorian of his class," commented Fr. Lewandoski, who added, "with, as you know, graduation being the seeds for more destruction." Speaker Nancy Wigglesma, Professor of English, had stated this aspect when she termed San Salvador a nation in a state of siege. "The murdered were victims of revenge," said Wigglesma, "for when I interviewed Fr. Mantez earlier this year at (J)UCA, the university was a sea of calm, rational thinking." Wigglesma could not believe the changes which had to have occurred for the murders to have taken place.

Amnesty Interna-

tional/FSC coordinator, James Buckley, spoke earnestly on the the Death Squads and the approach to social change which they favored. Thousands of people have disappeared since their inception. "Sometimes disappearances are for a right you and I take for granted, the right of free speech," commented Buckley, who noted that thinking was illegal until the ideas from it were uttered. Families often have no idea what happened to loved ones until given the chance to look through "mug shots" of the dead in their open air graves. Both Buckley and President Mara encouraged those there to express gratitude for our blessings and show concern through action for this violation of human rights. Amnesty had mailgrams available once the vigil was over. Individuals interested in addresses can contact Amnesty International.

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# ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

## BATMAN released on video cassette: a must see

By Linda Glover  
Contributing Writer

Everyone has seen this insignia: a black bat inside a golden oval. It's been plastered on billboards, newspapers, and movie theatres. Now, it commands attention on video cassettes in retail stores; every kid in town wants one.

Get it for them, get it for yourself: *BATMAN* is here, and it's an excellent movie.

To quote Jack Nicholson, who plays the evil Joker, "We've got a live one here." Since *BATMAN* opened in the theatres just five months ago, it has grossed millions, making it the number five best-selling film of all time according to "People" magazine. With its video release six weeks earlier than usual, it's bound to be a blockbuster as a holiday gift.

*BATMAN* has categorical strengths, and only minor weaknesses. The film is well-cast, with exceptional performances given by Michael Keaton as Batman, Kim Basinger as Vicki Vale, and Jack Nicholson as the maniacal Joker.

Keaton is a complex Batman: pensive and brooding. Suited up in body armor, he stalks street criminals in that seamy Harlem-clone: Gotham City.

Keaton displays a similar personality as Batman's alter-ego, Bruce Wayne, but with a

surprising added dimension: sensual vulnerability. When he has dinner with a woman he is shy, almost socially handicapped. It takes an understanding woman to draw him out.

Unlike the Superman character from the film of the same name, Keaton is attractive in both identities; he isn't a wimp like Clark Kent. He's also a refreshing change from the "No Libido Trio" of Stallone, Weathers, and Schwartzegger, who star in macho action films. Unlike them, Keaton has depth of character, a depth which includes emotional needs; he needs the love of a nurturing woman.

That woman, aptly played by Kim Basinger, is Vicki Vale, a sharp and savvy photo journalist. She brings glamour to the role with the chiseled perfection of a "cover-girl". But she seems more "real" - her hair gets tousled, she gets angry. She's intelligent and blonde - sexy, but not a "bimbo". And she has spunk.

Sparks fly when Vale berates Bruce Wayne for standing her up, yet she comforts him as he tries to admit his dual identity. Instead of being campy or sentimental, Vale's romantic interest is fresh; in the scene where Wayne struggles to describe his dual life, Vale assumes, not that he's Batman, but that he's married! And she investigates him, just as he investigates his nemesis, the Joker.

"Love that Joker!" as the script says. Jack Nicholson is the only actor who could have pulled off this role with such aplomb, such finesse. He was born for this part.

Who can forget Nicholson's performance as the possessed madman in Stephen King's "The Shining"? Yet this role as the Joker threatens to supersede that, particularly in young minds. The Joker is portrayed as a flamboyant maniac. He wears a purple suitcoat over blue and green checked baggy pants. His shirt is orange, studded with a green tie and handkerchief. Periodically he wears a beanie, an artist's chapeau and a top hat.

He is a character - a real killer. The Joker blows away several people (one while prancing around to carnival music), electrocutes one (o.k., so that one does look a little hokey), and dispenses others with "Smilex", a chemical mixture of his own creation. He also blows up, punches out, and shoots a few T.V. sets. Yet the violence is mild enough to qualify the film for a PG rating; no blood-and-guts to offend the squeamish. Even the segment dealing with the murder of young Bruce's parents is handled efficiently, without sensationalism.

The Joker may be vicious, but he is also memorable. His crazy laugh, black humor, and one-liners coupled with that

stretched-face grin emblazons him in the viewers memory.

His acting is likewise memorable. Nicholson displays great versatility in this role: he is funny, sick, and always sardonic. He primps and prances in an art museum, revising the color schemes to suit his fluorescent taste. In a parody of the Wizard Of Oz, he pretends to be "melting away" like the witch. Creative acting, indeed.

The screenplay is also surprisingly creative: rather than just cheap action sequences, the viewer is treated to character details and the neat juxtaposition of Batman and Joker scenes.

For example, after an inferred romantic encounter between Vicki Vale and Bruce Wayne, the scene cuts to the Joker blowing away Crime Boss Grissom. This is a stark contrasting of love and war. Also, directly after the scene of Vicki examining photos of Bruce Wayne, the viewer sees the Joker madly clipping photos of Vicki. The film is full of such perverted parallels.

Joker and Batman are parallel characters: Joker "created" Batman by killing Bruce's parents when he was a child, resulting in Bruce's near-psychotic crime-fighting drive. And Batman created the Joker when he dropped Jack Napier, a crime figure, into a vat of acid.

Clearly, *BATMAN* is not your run-of-the-mill crime drama

or superman flick. The audience sees Batman as human, capable of being hurt.

On the side of criticism, Keaton does seem too slightly built to pull off some of Batman's stunts, like effortlessly dangling a criminal over the edge of a skyscraper. Although his furrowed brows are perfect for the part, he sometimes seems too pixie-like.

There are also a few stock characters: Joker's toadies and Alexander Knott, a Jimmy Olsen type. There's even a "token celebrity" - Jerry Hall, whose part as Elisha is inconsequential.

Maybe, too, the ending drags on longer and more incredibly than it should. Batman and Vicki hang from a great height for an awfully long time. And Vicki screams just a tad too often.

But these are minor criticisms compared to the grand-scale excellence that permeates this film.

Look for Jack Nicholson to win the Oscar for best actor. And count on rock star Prince to get the award for the *BATMAN* soundtrack, which he composed and performs; its driving big band sound is exemplified by "Electric Chair."

I give *BATMAN* two thumbs up, 3 3/4 stars. It's available in most major department stores and virtually all video shops. And with a price tag of only \$16.88, you can afford to judge it for yourself.

## An evening with Windham Hill

by Andrea Wallace  
Strobe staff

Welcome to the music of Windham Hill. A night filled with entertainment was had by all who attended the Winter Solstice Concert in Weston Auditorium last Friday night.

Appearing together on stage for the first time were solo pianists Liz Story and Philip Aaberg along with four member band Nightnoise, featuring guitarist Michael O Domhnaill, keyboardist Triona Ni Domhnaill, flutist Brian Dunning and violinist Bill Oskay.

Together, the Windham Hill artists opened the night with an Irish carol entitled "Brilliant Night in Bethlehem" a song as popular in Ireland as "Silent Night" is here. Clearly audible above the instrumentation, the voice of keyboardist Triona Ni Domhnaill echoed as she sang in her native Gaelic tongue. Later, Dublin born Michael O Domhnaill and Brian Dunning from Nightnoise presented their

rendition of fellow Irishman Van Morrison's "Moondance" on flute and guitar.

Liz Story began her solo piano performance with a piece inspired by a Spanish carol entitled "Enter the Stable Gently". Story whimsically remarked, "As I progressed in the piece, the song took on a new title for me. I renamed it 'The escape of the Circus Ponies' It essentially means the same thing, I think."

Following a brief intermission, pianist Philip Aaberg, clad in a black airbrushed sports coat, humorously explained his philosophy of the spirit of music. Introducing fictitious character Saint Anytime, Aaberg explained that the character supposedly believed that the spirit in music could be felt at anytime and anyplace. One does not have to go to church and listen to secular music in order to feel the spirit. Any type of music is good as long as it moves one to feel the spirit.

Aaberg continued his performance with "High Plains" (Christmas on the Highline)



Nightnoise musicians Bill Oskay and Brian Dunning perform in Weston Auditorium

Strobe photo by Andrea Wallace

which was recorded on the original Winter Solstice album. This piece was inspired by Aaberg's memory of the change in sounds due to the cold in winter. "When I was a boy, I noticed the change in sound due to the cold. The snow crunching under my feet, the sounds of sleds, they seemed clearer and sharper in the cold. "High Plains" reminds me of that time of year and the changing of sounds in the cold."

The highlight of Aaberg's performance came with his rock

'n' roll version of "The Nutcracker Suite." Beginning quietly with the original Nutcracker march, Aaberg quickly transformed the music and performance into one which seemed composed and performed by Jerry Lee Lewis himself.

Next, the four member band Nightnoise was welcomed back on stage. In preparation for their final song, "Cricket's Wicket," violinist Bill Oskay explained the meaning of the bands name, Nightnoise. "Nightnoise comes

from the special celebration of the sounds heard after dark. Fifteen years ago, I began taping the sounds of crickets and trying to imitate them on my violin. One summer night I played to a cricket and he answered me. We ended up jamming all night."

Closing the evening, Story and Aaberg rejoined Nightnoise on stage. Together the performers brought the house down with, as Oskay stated earlier, "the Irish flavor, jazzy, chamber music" Windham Hill and its artists are known for.



# SPORTS

## Western Connecticut downs FSC basketball

by Dave Walsh  
Strobe staff

The Western Connecticut State College Men's Basketball team roared into Parkinson Gymnasium last Saturday and pinned a 96-68 defeat on the FSC Falcons. The Colonials, ranked #9 in the country, were led by Terry Murphy and Lance Williams with 19 points apiece. Sophomore Mike Goodchild leads FSC with 18 points.

The Falcons jumped out to an early 7-2 lead on the strength of four early points by junior Dana Belair. The Falcons

held the potent Western Connecticut State College offense under ten points for the first nine minutes of the game.

Murphy and Williams began to heat up and Western Connecticut took a 20-15 lead with 9:52 remaining in the first half. The Colonials extended their lead to 38-26 by the end of the half.

Goodchild hit a groove in the second half netting 8 of Fitchburg States's first 16 points of the second half. Nelson Oliver's basket with 13 minutes remaining pulled FSC within seven at 49-42.

The Colonials Gerry Corrigan and William Shepherd combined for 12 straight points to increase the lead to 67-45. The Falcons could not recover and Western Connecticut remained undefeated at 4-0.

## Falcon icemen crush SMU

The Fitchburg State College hockey team avenged last seasons ECAC North Final loss to Southeastern Massachusetts University by skating to an easy 5-1 victory over SMU last week at the Wallace Civic Center.

The Falcons struck quickly as sophomore Ken Venis took an excellent feed from Dave Greynolds and snapped a quick shot past veteran Corsair's goalie Scott Pearsons at 36 seconds of the first period.

Joe Murphy upped the lead to 2-0 at 11:57 by sliding a shot under a fallen Pearsons. Greynolds and Venis assisted on the goal. Venis popped home his second goal of the night by taking a feed from Brian Cotter down the right side and firing a slap

shot through the legs of Pearsons. The goal was scored at 18:19 of the second period and deflated the hopes of the Corsairs, who needed a big goal to get back into the game.

Sophomore Mark Abbotts unassisted goal at 5:59 of the third period increased FSC's lead to 4-0. FSC freshman goalie Joe Bina played magnificently in goal, stopping 31 of 32 shots in the game. Bina was trying to become the first goalie to shut out the Corsairs since 1978, a streak of 224 consecutive games.

SMU's Mike O'Keefe ended that dream by scoring a short handed goal at 13:13 of the third period. Bina, in turn, stopped a Mike Mulvey penalty shot two minutes later to maintain the three goal lead.

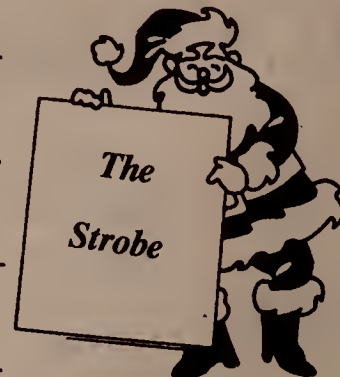
Junior Eric Lopez's empty net goal sealed the victory for the Falcons.

This is the final issue of the fall semester.

The Strobe will return in early February.

We wish you a happy and safe holiday

season.



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